

PROPOSALS

For Printing by SUBSCRIPTION.

In One Volume in Octavo

THE

APOLOGETICK DISCOURSES

OF

ST. THEOPHILUS Bp. of ANTIOCH

TO AUTOLYCUS

Against the Malicious Calumniators of the

CHRISTIAN RELIGION;

With

HERMIAS'S *IRRISIO*N

Of the PAGAN PHILOSOPHERS;

And

TERTULLIAN'S *PRESCRIPTION*,

Against HERETICKS.

Translated from their respective Originals, with Notes
and Preliminary Dissertations upon each Author.

By JOSEPH BETTY A. M. Fellow of
Exeter Coll. OXON.

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The Judgment of Dr. Cave concerning St. Theophilus, *Lives of the Fathers*, pag. 119. 121.

Theophilus had all the Accomplishments of a learned and liberal Education, and made vast Improvements in the Progress of his Studies, so that he was thoroughly vers'd in the Writings of all the great Masters of Learning and Philosophy in the Heathen World. ——— And certainly if Wisdom and Eloquence, if Strength of Reason and a prudent Managing the Controversy were able to do it, he could not well fail of reclaiming Autolycus from his Error and Idolatry.

Du Pin's Account of St. Theophilus in his *Ecclesiastical History*, pag. 56. 57.

It is apparent from this little Epitome, how well this Author was acquainted with profane History. These Books are fill'd with great Variety of curious Disquisitions, concerning the Opinions of the Poets and Philosophers. ——— Moreover, These Books are full of Moral and Allegorical Expressions, the Style is elegant, and Turn of the Thoughts agreeable; and that whoever reads them cannot doubt but that the Author was a very eloquent Man.

A Character of Tertullian's *Prescription* given by Mr. Reeves in his *Preliminary Discourse to Vincentius Lirinensis*, pag. 198.

—— Not to mention Tertullian's other Tracts against particular *Hereticks*, I shall take notice on-

ly of his *Prescription* against them all in general, wherein he has accounted for the Being of *Heresies*, their Nature, their Causes, and their Effects, with the Remedies against them, and a particular Description of the Way and Manners of such *Tempters*, who though they have not *Cloven Feet*, yet *go about* with the same Design as those that have, *seeking whom they* may devour. This *Prescription* I take to be the best *Primitive Receipt* we have against the *Itch* of *Novelty*, that *Lust* of *Curiosity*, which is the *Bane* of *Christianity*, against the specious Poison of such over inquisitive Spirits, such ungovernable Wits, as affect *Nostrums* in Divinity, and will have something *New*, or *Nothing* in Religion.

Ex. Coll. Jan. 20. 1721.

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